

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE.
BLACK AUSTRALIAN HORSE
 Goshin Sire and Double Hannes.
 And
SEVERAL MILCH COWS.
 Apply to
 A. B.
 Care of this Paper.
 Hongkong, 2nd February, 1886. [290]

TO LET.
O. S. MORRISON HILL. Entry let.
 March.
 Apply to
 G. C. ANDERSON,
 13, Praya Central.
 Hongkong, 2nd February, 1886. [29]

FOR SINGAPORE, HAVRE, AMSTER-
DAM AND HAMBURG, VIA
SUEZ CANAL.
THE Steamship
"IPHIGENIA."
 Captain P. Ahrens, will be despatched for the
 de Ports **TODAY**, the 3rd instant, at
 2 P.M., instead of as previously notified.
 or Freight or Passage apply to
 SIEMSEN & Co.,
 Agents.
 Hongkong, 2nd February, 1886. [287]

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.
THE Steamship.


"**GLADENHURF**"
 Captain Norman, will be dispatched as above
MORROW, the 4th inst, at **DAYLIGHT**.
 His Steamer has superior Accommodation
 First Class Passengers and carries a Doctor
 Stewards.
 For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.
 Longkong, 22nd February, 1886. 1288

BANK HOLIDAY.
 In accordance with Ordinance No 6 of 1875
 the Undermentioned Banks will be Closed
 the **Transaction of Public Business,**
MOEDROW (THURSDAY), the 4th, February,
 1886.
THE CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF
INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA,
JOHN THURBUHN,
 Manager, Hongkong.
THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA,
AND CHINA,
T. H. WHITEHEAD,
 Acting Manager, Hongkong.
THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
 Chief Manager.
THE COMPTEUR D'ESCOMITS DE PARIS,
C. C. INCHEBALD,
 Agent.
THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,
LIMITED,
H. A. HERBERT,
 Manager, Hongkong.
 Hongkong, 1st February, 1885. 1287

NOTICE.
 THE Undermentioned Insurance Offices will
 be Closed for the Transaction of Public

SINCERS TO-MORROW (THURSDAY), the 26th
 instant, (CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY).
 JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
 General Agents,
 HONGKONG INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED,
 General Managers,
 HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LD.,
 N. J. EDE,
 Secretary,
 HONGKONG INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LD.,
 W. H. PERCIVAL,
 Agent,
 NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY, LD.,
 W. H. RAY,
 Secretary,
 SHANGHAI CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LD.,
 RUSSELL & Co.,
 Agents,
 SHANGHAI NANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED,
 SAIL J. COWIE,
 Secretary,
 SHANGHAI INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
 JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,

THE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HONGKONG, 22 February, 1886. [279]




JURY LIST—1886.

NOTICE is hereby given that Pursuant to the Provisions of Section 4 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1881, I have THIS DAY caused to be Posted in the COURT HOUSE, a LIST of ALL the persons ascertained by me to be liable to serve as JURORS.

THE said List will remain so posted for the term of ONE FOURTEEN, in order that any person may, at the usual hour, be apply by notice in writing to me requiring that his name, or the Names of some other Person or persons may be respectively either added to, or struck off the said List, upon cause duly assigned in such Notice.

Registry, Supreme Court,
This 1st day of February, 1886.
EDW. J. ACKROYD,
Registrar.

[80]



NOTICE TO MARINERS.
DANGER TO NAVIGATION.

The Master of the British Steamship
Merionath reports that on the 24th
inst., he lost 10 1/2 P.W. and Long 109 3/4'.
He passed the WRECK of a VESSEL
apparently a Barque or Brig—just awash
with the Stumps of Two Masts standing.
R. MURRAY HUNSEY,
Retd. Comdr. R.N.,
Acting Harbour Master, &c.,
Harbour Department,
Hongkong, 24th January, 1886. [272]

H I R A N O
NATURAL MINERAL WATER.
BOTTLED IN JAPAN.
PRICE \$4.50 PER CASE OF 50 PINTS.
NORTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 2nd February, 1886. [273]

ROOM WANTED.
A SINGLE UNFURNISHED ROOM
wanted in a Central Situation.
Address, _____ G.,
Care of Office of this Paper.
Hongkong, 28th January, 1886. [248]

MAIL TABLES.

NOW READY
MAIL TABLES
FOR
1886.

Showing Dates of DEPARTURE of the
SLOUCH and FRIGATE MAILS from HONG
KONG, of their anticipated ARRIVALS in LONDON,
and the Dates of RETURN DESPATCHES; and
containing also a similar Table regarding
PARCEL POST
AND AN ALMANAC FOR 1886.

On Paper 10 Cents each, or One Dollar
per Dozen. On Card Board 20 Cents each.

Also
ANGLO-CHINESE CALENDAR.
On Card Board 10 Cents.

"Daily Press" Office,
Hongkong, 21st December, 1885.

FOR SALE.

1893. NOW READY. 1893.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
For 1893.
(Twenty-fourth Annual Issue.)
ROYAL OCTAVO, pp. 1122 with plans \$3.00.
SMALLER EDITION, pp. 728, \$1.50.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, and is as usual, a valuable work.

It contains DESCRIPTIVE AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS OF, AND DIRECTIONS FOR, HONGKONG, KOWLOON, AND THE VICINITY.
Do. Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, Canton, Amoy, Swatow, Hongkong, Kowloon, and the Vicinity.
Do. China, Japan, Korea, and the Vicinity.
Do. India, Ceylon, and the Vicinity.
Do. Australia, New Zealand, and the Vicinity.
Do. Europe, Africa, and the Vicinity.
Do. America, and the Vicinity.

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Do. America, and the Vicinity.

INFORMATION.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GOODS
are now being sold off at
REDUCED PRICES.

BONBONS AND CRACKERS.
in great variety.

ORNAMENTAL BOXES.
CHOCOLATE CREAMS.
CRYSTALLISED FRUITS.

PURE CONFECTIONERY.
of all kinds.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.
Hongkong, 21st January, 1893.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until terminated.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 3RD, 1893.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council this afternoon the Religious Ceremonies and Festivals Bill will come on for second reading.

In introducing the Bill last week the Attorney-General said it was for the purpose of providing for the regulation of Chinese processions, fireworks, theatricals, etc., and this is all the explanation that has so far been vouchsafed in connection with it.

In former days it was the custom to attach to each Bill when introduced a printed statement of its objects and reasons, not out at such length as to facilitate intelligent criticism. This useful practice has of late years been abandoned, and only the most meagre explanation either of the purpose or necessity of a Bill is now given; such explanation as is given is frequently, from its brevity, misleading. The statement, for instance, that the present Bill is to provide for the regulation of Chinese processions, fireworks, theatricals, etc., would naturally convey the inference that it was to provide new or different regulations from those now in force, whereas in one very important respect it does away with all regulation, in others it merely re-enacts the existing provisions, and in fact the only really important part of the Bill is that providing for the carrying out of such of the old law as is retained and the new provisions introduced.

The existing law, as contained in sub-section 12 of section 2 of Ordinance 14 of 1845, provides that no person "shall wantonly or unnecessarily blow any horn, beat any gong or drum, or make any other noise calculated to annoy or alarm any person, or to frighten any horse or other animal; provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed and extended to any religious procession or festival for the due celebration of which the consent of a Police Magistrate has been obtained."

As no Chinese processions are conducted without the blowing of horns, beating of gongs and drums, and the making of other noises, it follows that a permit is necessary in the case of every procession. The new Bill repeats this, and provides that a permit shall be necessary only when the procession is to pass through districts 5 and 6, that is, practically speaking, along the European portion of Queen's-road. In all the other districts except these two processions may be organised and conducted without law or hindrance. Power is certainly reserved to the Governor-in-Council to extend the application of sections 2 and 3 of the Bill to other districts than 5 and 6, but the present intention of the Government is evidently to confine it to the two named. Whether it is desirable to do away with the existing regulations as regards the other districts is, we think, an open question. Processions such as those of which we had several last year are not allowed in the city of Canton, the authorities holding that they furnish an attraction for the congregation of thieves and lawless characters, who find opportunities of plunder amongst the crowds which such spectacles draw together. There is also the interruption to traffic to be considered. Even if it be thought unnecessary to compel the organisers of processions to apply for permits they should at least be required to notify the Police, so that adequate arrangements may be made for the preservation of order.

Federal and marriage processions may be carried on in districts Nos. 5 and 6, as in the other districts, without official permission. Permits for other processions in these districts are to be obtained from the Registrar-General, and the Chinese will probably experience no more difficulty in this respect in the future than they have in the past. As the passage of processions along Queen's-road has hitherto caused frequent and great annoyance to the European mercantile community, a favourable opportunity now presents itself for seeking for the redress of this grievance at the hands of the legislature should they think the matter one of such importance as to have from time to time been represented to be.

The next matter dealt with by the Bill is that of the erection of mat sheds, and on this point the provisions will afford a certain measure of satisfaction. It will be remembered that last year these inflammable structures were erected all over the city and constituted such a danger that the Fire Insurance Companies were compelled to address the Government in reference to the subject. It is now provided that no inflammable structure, awning, or decoration shall be erected in towns or villages without permission from the Registrar-General, and that even when permission is given the structures must be removed at least 100 yards from

any building and with proper precautions for safety and the extinction of fire. It must be borne in mind, however, that this provision will be of universal application, and that even should the Bill appear to favour the colony with a view not a single triumphal arch could be erected in this honour in any of our streets. It is hardly necessary, we think, that the rule should be of such a cast iron nature as this. In fact until within recent years the old system both with regard to processions and the erection of mat sheds worked pretty satisfactorily, but new legislation has been rendered necessary by the quarrels of departments; what could formerly be left to the common sense of responsible officials is now to be regulated by law. According to the existing law every person who shall erect any shed, or house of matting or other inflammable material so as in case of fire to endanger any neighbouring building, is liable to a penalty not exceeding \$5; but the practice has been to give permits for the erection of such sheds from time to time under such conditions as the circumstances seemed to demand. The Bill as now proposed will render impossible the display which have hitherto been held once or twice every year in front of the Man Mo Temple. This will naturally give considerable dissatisfaction to the Chinese, and we think that if some means could be devised so that old established celebrations of this description might continue while at the same time incendiary officials should be restrained from recklessly granting permits to erect inflammable structures all over the city it would be desirable. The Bill provides, further, that the prohibition of the erection of inflammable structures shall not apply to any scaffolding of wood or bamboo necessary for the removal of a dead body if such scaffolding be removed within forty-eight hours from the time of its erection. As our readers are aware, the dead bodies of Chinese are as a rule removed from houses by the window and a scaffolding. Hitherto it has apparently been necessary to apply for permission to erect such scaffolding, but no one we think will consider it desirable to retain such a useless formality; this part of the Bill, therefore, must command entire approval.

Taking the subjects in the order in which they are dealt with in the Bill we next come to that of the discharge of fireworks. Under Ordinance 10 of 1872 it is an offence to set off any powder or other firework without previous permission to do so from the Superintendent of Police. Under the new Bill the permission is to be given by the Registrar-General. The next section provides that no person shall advertise, notify, or carry on any Chinese theatrical performance of a public nature unless an abstract of the plot or nature of such performance shall first have been furnished to the Registrar-General, who, on approving the same, may in his discretion issue a permit for such performance, without which permit no such performance shall be notified or carried on. Under section 22 of Ordinance 8 of 1855 licences for religious or theatrical entertainments are to be issued in writing under the hand of the Governor. This provision is repealed by the present Bill. The submission of plays for the approval of the Registrar-General is an innovation, but probably few persons will question its desirability. If it be necessary to submit plays in England for the approval of the Lord Chamberlain it is certainly more necessary that Chinese plays should be examined by some properly appointed official.

A somewhat interesting point, however, arises in connection with this section. At the last meeting of the Council the Chief Justice said no distinction could be made between the European Press and the Chinese Press of the Colony. Yet in the present Bill we find the legislature is asked to extend a provision to Chinese theatricals which is not extended to European theatricals. If it is possible to make a distinction here why is it not possible to make a distinction in the case of the Press? Not that we ask for such a distinction, for as we have already remarked on a previous occasion the colony has reason to be proud of its Chinese Press. We merely mention the point as touching the question of class legislation.

In the Bill under notice most of the provisions apply to all persons in the colony and not to Chinese only. It is unlawful for a European to set crackers or erect inflammable structures as for a Chinese, and if our friends the Freemasons wished to organise a procession in Districts Nos. 5 and 6 of the city, they (as we read the Ordinance) would have to apply to the Registrar-General for permission just in the same way as the Chinese would have to apply under similar circumstances. This being so, the question arises whether it is worth while to make the distinction in regard to theatricals. Most of the pieces performed at the Theatre Royal have of course been sanctioned by the Lord Chamberlain long before they reach this colony, and that fact might be taken as doing away with the necessity of submission to any local officer; but in the case of foreign plays it may be no great hardship for the companies performing them to send a copy to the Registrar-General—certainly no greater than that the Attorney-General wished to inflict on newspaper publishers by compelling a visit to the Registrar of the Supreme Court every time a journalist took a run to Macao or Canton. As matters stand at present plays which would not be allowed to be performed in England may be performed here with impunity, provided they are not quite bad enough to give rise to a prosecution for obscenity. Whether, as a matter of abstract principle, it is desirable the State should interfere with the stage any more than with the Press, we are not concerned now to discuss; it is sufficient for our purpose that while all State interference with the Press has been done away with in England the office of the Lord Chamberlain with respect to plays is still retained.

The next section of the Bill provides that no placard in the Chinese language may be posted without the permission of the Registrar-General subject to an appeal to the Governor-in-Council. A similar section was included in the Ordinance passed after the riots of September, 1884, and is now in force. Why it should be included in the present Bill we are at a loss to conceive, for it has nothing to do with the rest of the subject matter of the Ordinance, except that a placard may announce a theatrical performance, but it may

also announce a sale by auction or a thousand and one other things. Section 3 provides that no person shall deface any placard bearing the official seal of any Government department; and to this the same remarks apply as to the preceding section. Section 9 provides that permits for the various matters referred to in the Ordinance may be issued by the Registrar-General, subject to such instructions as he shall from time to time receive from the Governor. Presumably these instructions will direct that the Police department shall be consulted and notified in reference to the issue of all permits. It will be remembered that last year considerable friction arose between the Registrar-General and the Police department in reference to this very point, and that the public order was endangered by the Police being left in ignorance of various matters on which it was important they should have had the fullest information. In order to avoid anything like a repetition of the scandal referred to, and which will be fresh in the minds of most of our readers, it would be well if a provision were inserted in the Bill that all permits issued by the Registrar-General should be countersigned by the Captain Superintendent of Police. It is impossible to hold the Police responsible for the preservation of order if they are kept in ignorance of permits having been granted, to do things calculated to cause disorder. Section 10 of the Ordinance provides that permits for such acts as are to be joined in by a number of persons shall be issued to one person only by name, who shall be responsible for the due observance of all the conditions of the permit, and shall, if so required, furnish such security for the observance of such conditions as to the Registrar-General may seem fit. Seeing that the maximum fine that can be inflicted under the Ordinance is \$25, it seems absurd to take security for such a small amount, and of course security could not be demanded for a larger amount. We may also point out that the Bill does not provide in what way the bond is to be used upon, nor the form in which it is to be given. Section 11 is a formal one, reserving the powers of the Governor. Section 12 provides that no permit shall be required for any ceremony or festival act of a disorderly nature which shall be carried on wholly within any house, whether with lights, music, and decorations, or without. Under Ordinance 17 of 1844, which this Bill thus repeals, it was unlawful to make any noise, between the hours of sunset and six in the morning, calculated to disturb, annoy, or interfere with the public tranquillity or the quiet of the occupier or inhabitant of any dwelling-house. In this respect, therefore, the Bill accords more liberty to the subject, for no festival can be carried on without more or less noise, amongst the Chinese at all events; hitherto it has been necessary to procure permits for various celebrations which under the section referred to will cease to be in themselves illegal. Section 13 is the penal clause, the punishment for any offence under the Ordinance being a fine not exceeding \$25 or imprisonment not exceeding three months. The Bill, although far from perfect in its present shape, may form the basis of a useful Act.

The British steamer *Glenfruin* was finally discharged from the hands of the Hongkong and Wharfedale Dock Company on Monday, and returned to the service of the British mail line. The last voyage of the *Glenfruin* was very interesting at one time, every ship in the block looking like the entrance to a "bug" during the morning. The immense volume of water that was being brought to her, however, soon began to tell round the sides of the block, and by about four o'clock there was a considerable diminution in the heat and the flames in the front. After that it was a matter of simply drowning the flames which still had much material to work upon in the great mass of debris in the interior, and this was gradually accomplished. At the corners there were portions of the buildings which were not burnt down, but they are probably of little value now. The outer, and a great many of the inner walls remain standing, but it remains to be seen whether any part of them can be again utilised for the rebuilding of the Theatre. The Theatre was insured with China Fire Insurance Company for \$10,000, and we believe that, apart from the ground floor which was insured, the contents are a total loss. They are miscellaneous small shops, and from one of them the street was lit up with Chinese lanterns, the destruction of which may possibly prevent a few headaches. There were also large quantities of crackers destroyed in one of the shops.

We regret to hear that the fire has been a fatal one, two children, there being only two much reason to believe, having perished in the flames, which spread so rapidly as to cut off their retreat before they could get out. Fortunately there was no performance going on at the Theatre at the time, otherwise the loss of life would probably have been appalling, as has been the case with regard to fires in public buildings in Europe and America. The Theatre was closed in preparation for a grand play on China New Year Day.

A FOOTBALL MATCH IN HONGKONG.
An attempt has once more been made after a lapse of many years to introduce into this Colony the great English game of football. Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, the Honorary Secretary of the Victoria Recreation Club, with his usual enthusiasm for manly sports, has been working the matter with a view to a match between the Garrison and representatives of other bodies. A pick-up game was arranged for 4.30 yesterday afternoon, but unfortunately the fire in Gap-street intervened, and doubtless drew off many who would otherwise have been present. The attendance of players was in consequence limited to about a dozen, with a score or two of spectators. The ground selected was inside the bottom of the Gap-street, a good place for the purpose, but not a very nice one to play on, as there were depressions full of water in various parts, and the whole was soft and holding. Players must take care to go down with nothing but a good coating of mud, and take much value off, as the best recommendation to the ground is that when a man gets a heavy cropper he is pretty apt to fall into something more serious. At 4.30 the match was played off by Mr. Lockhart and Mr. Pike, which was as follows:

Mr. Pike took back on his own side, with Drummell half back, and the other four forwards. Grimbly was placed back on the other side, with Drummell half back. Pike kicked off, and the ball was at once carried close to the other goal. Holworthy made a good run for it, but was well collared by Grimbly. He then passed to Pike, who made a clear run, and scored a touch down which he transferred into a goal. Dr. Robek kicked off, and Brannwell getting the ball he brought it right back again, and was well collared by Grimbly, who was well collared by Dr. Robek. Pike took back on his own side, with Drummell half back, and the other four forwards. Grimbly was placed back on the other side, with Drummell half back. Pike kicked off, and the ball was at once carried close to the other goal. Holworthy made a good run for it, but was well collared by Grimbly. He then passed to Pike, who made a clear run, and scored a touch down which he transferred into a goal. Dr. Robek kicked off, and Brannwell getting the ball he brought it right back again, and was well collared by Grimbly, who was well collared by Dr. Robek. Pike took back on his own side, with Drummell half back, and the other four forwards. Grimbly was placed back on the other side, with Drummell half back. Pike kicked off, and the ball was at once carried close to the other goal. Holworthy made a good run for it, but was well collared by Grimbly. He then passed to Pike, who made a clear run, and scored a touch down which he transferred into a goal. Dr. Robek kicked off, and Brannwell getting the ball he brought it right back again, and was well collared by Grimbly, who was well collared by Dr. Robek.

There were some slight and well played series of passes, but nothing of a really interesting nature. The game was over at 5.30, and the result was a goal for each side, and a touch down for each side.

The season thus far has not been productive of an average number of configurations, and until yesterday it was almost two months since there had been an alarm fire. At about 2.50 yesterday afternoon the fire bells pulled forth an alarm, however, and on inquiry it was found that a fire was raging in Gap-street. On arrival there, at about 3.15, the fire was found to be in the large block which comprises the Po Lok Theatre and the buildings attached was found to be in flames in almost every part. From some cause, we have it was a case of a fire, the outbreak occurred in an small room attached to one of the shops on the Gap-street front of the block. In that dry building, where there is an immense amount of wooden structures, the flames ran along with incredible rapidity, and before any help could be obtained the fire was beyond all hope of checking in time to save the building. The first engine on the ground was a little Chinese manual from an establishment near the Harbour Office, which was quickly followed by the powerful manual of the Nam Pak Hong. No. 3 Government steamer was down almost as soon as the latter, and it was in action in a remarkably short space of time, being quickly followed by the other Government steamers, the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's steamer, and the Silk Guild's manual. Besides the heavy supply of water brought to bear by these engines there was a strong pressure upon the hydrants, which were largely made use of, and water was being poured upon the burning mass from all sides. Acting Superintendent J. S. Brewer, and Assistant Superintendents Gray and Wagner were early on the scene, directing the operations of the Government Fire Brigade, while Mr. A. Coxon had a strong and energetic body of red jackets under his command. There was really not a great deal that could be done, as it was evident from the first that the Theatre block must be destroyed, and it being well isolated it was not a difficult matter to keep it from spreading—merely to cool the fronts of the houses on the opposite sides of the streets around it. Gap-street was a wide division in front, there was a wide street also between it and the St. Stephen's Church premises, and at the back also there was a wide division intervening between the Theatre block and the Tuen Wah Hospital building. The narrowest division was the street on the east side, but there was a good wall on that side as well as the others, and the danger of the fire spreading beyond the Theatre block was not great, with so good a protection as had been secured.

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